

Wave

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for the Long Beach community

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City web site: www.longbeach.gov

Progress Report . . .

LONG BEACH AIRPORT

A NOTE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

I am very pleased to announce that the rehabilitation of the Long Beach Airport's 10,000-foot main runway is complete. With these much-needed repairs finished and the main runway fully operational, the need to divert aircraft to the backup runway, closer to homes and businesses, will be greatly reduced.

We are now turning our attention to our second much-needed rehabilitation project – the Proposed Terminal Area Improvements Project – which you will read more about in this newsletter. The terminal project has been the subject of a public process over the past year and will continue to be. The City Council has approved a scope of work to be considered in an environmental impact report (EIR).

In addition, the Airport's Public Affairs Division is seeking new ways to increase communications with the public. Two current initiatives underway are the creation of the Airport Information and Noise Abatement Center and the implementation of SkyTrak, an internet flight tracking system. You can read more about these projects inside the newsletter.

Please watch the Airport's website, www.lgb.org, for updates related to the Proposed Terminal Area Improvements Project, the EIR, and the opening of the Airport Information Center.



Gerald R. Miller, City Manager

PROPOSED TERMINAL AREA IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

As the lead agency, the City is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Report for Proposed Terminal Area Improvements at the Long Beach Airport (LGB).

An EIR does not represent project approval or denial. The purpose of an EIR is to provide public agencies and the public in general with detailed information about the effects that a proposed project is likely to have on the environment.

In addition, an EIR is a tool to inform decision makers of these potential environmental impacts. Once the final EIR is prepared, it will be considered for certification by the Planning Commission and, if appealed, by the City Council.

The purpose of the Proposed Terminal Area Improvements Project is to provide improved airport terminal facilities designed to accommodate the number of passengers permitted by the City's Airport Noise Compatibility Ordinance. Between 2001 and 2004, the number of annual passengers using LGB increased from 600,000 to almost 3,000,000. The forecasted number of total passengers under the Ordinance, with all of the permitted commercial and commuter flights in use, would be 4.2 million. The improvements will also provide space for the increased security required by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) following the tragedy of September 11, 2001, and provide minimal office space for the staff and tenants who make that service possible.

The proposed terminal area improvements are guided by the City's commitment to comply with the City's Airport Noise Compatibility

Ordinance and to maintain the current character of the Airport as a Long Beach Cultural Heritage Landmark. The TSA security requirements and all of the City's current fire, building, and safety codes standards will be met.

Detailed information about Airport-related issues, the proposed improvement project and the EIR Notice of Preparation (NOP) are posted on the Airport's website, www.lgb.org.

WHY IS THE EIR BEING CONDUCTED?

Originally built in 1941, the historic Airport terminal served approximately 25,000 annual commercial airline passengers. Based on passenger projections for the current legally permitted number of flights, 41 commercial and 25 commuter, 4.2 million passengers will use the terminal annually. The EIR, an information document developed with analysis and public input, is being prepared to disclose the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Terminal Area Improvements Project.

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THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Improvements are proposed to the thirteen areas described below:

Passenger Areas

- Holdrooms
- Concession Area
- Restrooms
- Baggage Claim Devices
- Ticketing Facilities

Security

- Passenger Security Screening
- Baggage Security Screening

Administrative Facilities

- Baggage Service Office
- Airline, LGB and TSA Office Space

Aircraft Access

- Airline Gates
- Aircraft Parking Positions

Vehicular and Passenger Traffic

- Vehicle Parking
- Traffic and Pedestrian Circulation

EIR CHRONOLOGY

The EIR preparation process began in October 2003 when the City circulated a NOP and held scoping meetings on the original concept for airport terminal improvements. Recognizing intense public interest in the project, the City Council asked the Airport Advisory Commission (AAC) to provide direction on both the scope of the project and the scope of the EIR.

The AAC held 15 public meetings and accepted public comments from November 2003 to July 2004, and then formulated recommendations for the City Council.

On February 8, 2005, the City Council approved a revised project concept and EIR scope and determined that a new NOP should be prepared.

EIR PROCESS

This EIR is being prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will, therefore, fully analyze and disclose the project's potential environmental impacts. The Draft EIR is scheduled to be circulated in Fall 2005 to public agencies and the general public for 45 days. During this comment period, the public may submit written comments on the information contained in the Draft EIR. During this circulation period, the Planning Commission will hear the information in the Draft EIR at a Study Session, which is a public meeting. However, there is no formal action taken at a Study Session. All written comments received during the public review period of the Draft EIR, will be responded to in the Final EIR. The Final EIR will be considered by the Planning Commission for certification, and if appealed, by the City Council. The City Council will decide whether to approve or deny the project after the EIR is certified.

ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE EIR

The following issues have been identified for evaluation: Aesthetics, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, Air Quality, Health Risk Assessment, Public Services, Cultural Resources, Land Use and Planning, and Transportation.

Detailed information about these issues can be found in the NOP for the proposed project, which is posted on the Airport's website at www.lgb.org.

IN THE NEWS . . .

Budget Summit

Seeking Community Participation

The City of Long Beach invites the community's participation in the development of the Fiscal Year 2006 Proposed Budget. Please attend the third annual Budget Summit on Saturday, July 9 at 9:00 a.m. at the Grand, located at 4101 East Willow Street. Call 570.6425.

Fourth of July Fireworks Safety

There's Nothing Cool About Fireworks

All fireworks are dangerous. All fireworks, including those labeled "safe and sane," are illegal in Long Beach. Please view fireworks in a safe manner by attending one of the many dazzling professional fireworks displays held throughout the region. Check your local newspapers for details!



SeaFest 2005: TransPacific Race and the Mayor's Cup

Long Beach Launched As The Heart of the Yachting World

The major events of SeaFest will set sail this summer in Long Beach! Visit Rainbow Harbor for the 43rd Annual TransPac Race, featuring more than 70 yachts that will sail from Long Beach to Hawaii starting on July 11. The First Annual Mayor's Cup, featuring an all women's sailing competition, will take place on July 14. Call 570.8920 or visit www.transpacificyc.org.



ENHANCED AIRPORT OUTREACH

One objective of the Airport's Public Affairs Division, which includes the Public Information Office and the Noise Office, is to provide consistent, easily accessible information to the community and pilots. In support of this objective, the City Council has authorized the following:

- A complete upgrade of the Airport's Noise Operations Monitoring System (ANOMS).
- Replacement of the existing 18 noise monitors with state-of-the-art technology.
- Installation of SkyTrak, an Internet-based, community access flight-tracking system.
- The creation of the Airport Information and Noise Abatement Center.

Implementation of these enhancements began in May 2005 and the projects are expected to be fully operational by July 2005. Detailed information on these efforts is available on the Airport's website at www.lgb.org.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Contacting Long Beach Airport

Airport Website	www.lgb.org
Airport email	lgbarpt@longbeach.gov
Administration	570.2600
Public Affairs Office	570.2678
Noise Hotline	570.2665
Schedule an Airport tour	570.2679